



September 1, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann
Wieand
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade
Ramer, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,
Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Mentor/Mentee

Thursday
6:30 p.m. - Stephen Min -
MYF Rm / Rm 15

Saturday
8:30 a.m. - MLC/Pastors
Retreat / FH

Zoom prayers
Monday - 8:30 a.m.
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Praying Companions Class

Elizabeth Gingrich

Praying Companions emerged as a group in about 2008 following an elective Sunday School Class that studied “Stretch Out Your Hand” by Tilda Norberg on the role and potential for healing in the lives of individuals, the church and our wider communities. Our make-up has changed over the years with class members coming and going and sometimes returning, but we are primarily a small group of women whose aim is to share companionship, deep listening and support for one another through the various challenges and transitions of our lives.

Since the pandemic switch to connecting by Zoom, we have continued to meet in this way (currently on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. rather than on Sunday mornings) as we have found it enables us to better include members who are joining from different time zones or who for other reasons are unable to be regularly present in church.

Our meetings typically last about 1 hour and 15 minutes, beginning with an opening reflection led by volunteers from the class on a topic meaningful to them. This may be from Scripture, but we have also leaned towards resources that focus on the sacredness of Creation and each human being, and how we can move towards healing in relationships between each other and the Earth. How do we truly “see” each other and the dignity of all people especially in these current times of climate crisis, political upheaval, and disregard for human and other life? How do we respond in our “ordinary” everyday lives in ways that are healing? What about the times when we ourselves feel crushed by our circumstances?

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 241
No nurture hour

Finances – August 25, 2024

Operating Fund	\$3,330.26
Mennonite Education	\$40.00
Either Fund	\$5,105.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$8,475.26</i>
Total	\$8,475.26

Looking Ahead

September 8: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Peace with God: Believing in God
(John 3:1-21)

September 15: Sermon: Jocelyne Ahoga; Peace with God: Abiding in Jesus
(John 15:1-17)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader
Monday - Thursday
Deron Bergstresser, Pastor
Tuesday - Friday
Katie Misz, Pastor
Tuesday, Thursday
Monday & Wednesday p.m.

Office hours this week

Monday,
Office Closed
Wednesday, Thursday
9 - 12, 1-3
Tuesday, Friday
9 - 12

Greeter signup: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRLd0Ydw_QxRiQUvRhUscNV-k0HV-oTcPnu61NyBcjM/edit?

The *Waterford Buzz* is published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

Janet Shoemaker,
Editor
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

After this time of reflection, we take turns sharing praises and prayer concerns, sometimes pausing to pray for particularly challenging needs. We have grown in our ability to be vulnerable and honest, to share our hurts and acknowledge when we have made mistakes. The confidentiality of the group is very important to us.

Outside of class we try to support members of the group in practical ways when needed with meals, support during illness etc., but other social gatherings have recently been rather limited. Currently we are a small group of about five to six regular attenders, some married, some single or formerly married, with an age span of mid 50s to mid 70s. We are open to being joined by other women of any age who feel that Praying Companions might be a fit for them for a shorter or longer period of time. You are welcome to reach out for more information to Liz Gingrich or Lynda Hollinger-Janzen who are co-leaders.

Class Profile

Waterford Mennonite BnB

JD Smucker, co-chair, Ministry Leadership Council

Did you know that the church owns a house? Located on the northeast corner of the church property is a white house that the church bought in 1989 so there would be space for building the addition of the nurture wing of our present building. Waterford had two worship services at the time because the congregation was large and growing. The house was used for Nurture classes and also gave the MYF a convenient meeting place and kitchen facilities for Wednesday evening gatherings before the nurture wing was completed.

Once classes moved into the nurture wing, the house provided a home for individuals, families, and service workers in transition, to live for short or longer periods of time. A safe house for women in Goshen, a family coming out of the Elkhart County Women's Shelter, Rod and Lynda Hollinger-Janzen upon return from service in Benin, Africa, individuals in transition following incarceration, and various ministry organizations helping individuals in need of temporary housing. All of these unique needs and more, filled the house with life from 1995 through 2023.

Over the years, many from the church have volunteered helping keep the house in good condition for those who occupied the space. I have helped paint it twice, along with many others. Facilities and Finance Ministry Team has taken charge of large and small repairs over the years, keeping the house comfortable in the summer and winters, along with plumbing and electrical needs. It takes a village to keep a property in shape, and for many of us, just having our own home to take care of is enough of a challenge at times, both financially and with limited time and resources.

So, what future lies ahead for the church house property? Keep your eyes on the Buzz for the next article as we together live into the answers of what could be. . .

New Books in the WMC Library

by Diane Bodiker

The Reparative Justice Group has a list of books that they recommended be added to our church library as our library budget allows. Three new books have been added.

Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery, by Soong-Chan and Mark Charles. Injustice has plagued American society for centuries. And we cannot move toward being a more justice nation without understanding the root causes that have shaped our culture and institutions. The authors aim to recover a common memory and shared understanding of where we have been and where we are going. They call our nation and churches to a truth-telling that will expose past injustices and open the door to conciliation and true community.

Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair, by Gregory Thompson. Reparations is a book for this moment. It is a call to action to offer tangible restitution for the historic exploitation of Black labor. White Christians should have been leading the way on this all along, sadly, too many have demonstrated compromise and complicity instead. A timely call for reparations and the dignity of all people.

The Four Vision Quests of Jesus, by Steven Charleston. Steven Charleston, both a Choctaw Indian and a Christian bishop, gives the reader an engaging journey through the gospel of Matthew. You are drawn into successive visions of Jesus as interpreted from a Native American perspective.

Celebration of Baptism

On Sunday, August 25, 2024, Waterford pastors baptized nine youth. After a service of testimonies, the congregation gathered at the pond to witness the baptism ceremony. Thank you to Jordan Kauffman for the great photography!



From left to right: Conner Kauffmann, Ethan Claassen, Isaac Pfahler, Gretchen Bateman, Dominic Ramer, Lacy Stoltzfus, Cori Chupp, Garrett Stoltzfus



JoLee Stoltzfus, with sister Sam, father Dan, and mentor Lorene Miller.



Waterford Announcements

Meal hosting for BBI guests. Meal hosting is a good way to learn to know our Beninese guests beyond a Sunday morning sermon and for them to learn to know some of our church family. There is a signup sheet at the Participation station on which can choose a date and time to provide a meal. For details and electronic signup, see the email that was sent out on Wednesday. Contact Denise Diener with questions.

Check out the table by the library to see what Waterford is involved with at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale in September. There will be several signup sheets for helping with sales at different booths.

It's My Coins Count time again! Your collections will help provide clean water to families around the world through Mennonite Central Committee and its partners. Families are **invited to bring coins** for the MyCC bottle at church, which will be located outside the main doors into the sanctuary. Adults can support the drive by offering to match the amount collected by WMC! Thank you for making a difference in the world through MyCC and MCC!

On **Sunday, September 8, 2024, during the Nurture hour**, any interested adult or youth Sunday school classes are invited to join the Seekers Sunday School Class to hear **Tareq Abuhallima, a Palestinian from Gaza**, tell his story and reflections of his experiences since the Israel/Gaza war started last year. We will meet in the sanctuary to accommodate as many as would like to come.

Upcoming Community Events

Thursday, Sept. 12: **Frank and Betty Jo Yoder Public Affairs Lecture**, 7 p.m., Reith Recital Hall. **Dr. Antonio Flores, president & CEO of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities**, will give his speech, "The Relevance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the Midwest and at Goshen College." Flores has held this role since 1996. In it, he has served as chair and member of various national higher education associations and coalitions and received numerous honors for his contributions to higher education, including honorary doctorates from numerous universities.

MCC Relief Sale is looking for people to **help with kids activities** on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Anyone 12 years or older can sign up to run a game booth, help with train rides, teach kids how to knot a comforter, make a hygiene kit, or share stories about how the work of MCC helps people all around the world! Kids under the age of 12 are welcome to run a game with the help of an adult. Sign up at [Signup Genius 2024 Relief Sale Children's Activities](#) or use this QR code to access the site.



The Goshen office of the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) warmly invites you to participate in our **sixth annual 5K for Immigrant Justice** on October 12, 2024, on the Millrace Trail in Goshen. Registration is here: <https://immigrantjustice.org/5k>

Mennonite Church USA

MC USA's Climate Justice Ministry has selected two recipients and one honoree for the Generation Z Energy and Spirit Challenge. The award winners are Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship, Taftsville, Vermont, and The Freeman Project, Freeman, South Dakota. Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa, has received an honorable mention. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/gen-z-energy-spirit-challenge

Mennonite Church USA presented **Tina Schlabach** and Abby Endashaw with the 2024 **MC USA Bring the Peace award**. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/btp-2024-award-winners

The **MC USA Women in Leadership steering committee** gathered in Valley Village, California, on July 16-18, to plan the 2025 Women in Leadership Summit. Open to all women across MC USA, this one-day event will be on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in Greensboro, North Carolina, immediately preceding the Follow Jesus '25 convention. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/women-in-leadership-plan

MDS

Our **August Edition of On the Level** is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares our need for volunteers at our warehouse in Mississippi, read the latest on our flood response in Vermont, meet an inspirational 22 year-old volunteer and get the back story on a popular MDS photo. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/46Ym9WM>

AMBS

Online Symposium: Practical Theologies / Wisdom Traditions in Spiritual Care:

Sept. 24–26, 2024. The field of spiritual care continues to grow in terms of both theory and clinical practice across traditions and spiritual care disciplines. The goals of this online symposium of the International Association for Spiritual Care are to consider how diverse wisdom traditions connect with resources from the social and behavioral sciences and to foster reflection and dialogue among representatives of those traditions for further collaboration. Co-sponsors: the Society for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counseling and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. The symposium is free of charge; registration is required. ams.edu/iasc-symposium

Opportunities

Come and join a learning experience led by Jared Nally, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma on Sunday, **September 15, 2024, at Eighth Street Mennonite Church.** The Miami people have been—and are—an important part of this region for centuries. The presentation topics will include Miami history, the impact of European settlement, the forced removal to Oklahoma, contemporary Miami life, the work of culture and language recovery, and youth development programs. There will be time for discussing roles for white settlers who are committed to seeking healing and repair.

The event will begin in the fellowship hall at 12:30 p.m. with lunch and conversations. Bring a salad to share. Jared's presentation will begin at 1:15 p.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. You are also welcome to attend a presentation by Jared during the adult formation time in the sanctuary from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Contact Eileen Saner with questions and to register. eksaner@gmail.com 574-206-5752. This event is co-sponsored by the Consortium of Repair Network members of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.

Apache Stronghold invites you to join in a journey of prayer to save the Apache sacred land of Oak Flat, or *Chi'chil Bildagoteel*, from copper mining. The proposed mine would cause the sacred land to collapse, leaving a crater more than 1,000 feet deep and two miles wide. Apache Stronghold invites others to join on this prayer journey to "[stop the shattering of the human existence and to protect Mother Earth.](#)"

On July 13, Apache Stronghold began the prayer journey with the Lummi Nation in Washington state. They are traveling across the U.S., visiting with Indigenous supporters and spiritual leaders for prayer and ceremony in 20 locations before reaching Washington, D.C.

Apache Stronghold will gather for a final prayer vigil on September 11 at the U.S. Supreme Court, to be held in conjunction with the filing of their appeal against Resolution Copper.

You can support the prayer journey in the following ways:

- Keep Apache Stronghold in your prayers.
- Sign the [petition](#) to support Apache Stronghold in their quest for justice.
- Write to your members of Congress and [urge them to save Oak Flat.](#)
- Join in person [at points along the prayer journey.](#) You can follow Apache Stronghold on Instagram [@protectoakflat](#) for more details or connect with them via [email.](#)
- Come to Washington, D.C., for events with Apache leaders from September 8-10, and the final prayer vigil on September 11.

In peace and solidarity,

Daniela Lázaro-Manalo

Racial Equity Advocacy and Education Coordinator

Kirstin De Mello

Climate Advocacy and Education Coordinator

National Peace & Justice Ministries

MCC U.S.